

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 100450
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-10 MCE-00
OES-07 /058 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:CF
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED
S/S-O:TGMARTIN

-----089013 200048Z /70

P 192005Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 100450

USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: APRIL 19 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, QUOTING FRENCH NEWSPAPER
FRANCE SOIR AND MAGAZINE LE POINT, REPORTED THAT FRANCE HAS
EXPLODED NEUTRON BOMB IN PACIFIC IN TOP-SECRET TEST. UPI
SAID FRENCH MILITARY EXPERTS STATED THEY BELIEVED IT WAS
FIRST TIME NEUTRON BOMB HAD BEEN SET OFF ANYWHERE. FRENCH
DEFENSE MINISTRY, UPI ADDED, SAID IT WOULD NEITHER CONFIRM
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 100450

NOR DENY REPORT. UPI SAID PENTAGON AT FIRST DECLINED COM-
MENT ON WHETHER U.S. HAD PREVIOUSLY SET OFF NEUTRON WAR-
HEAD, BUT PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAID LATER: "IT IS VERY
REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT IF PRESIDENT WAS CONSIDERING PRO-
DUCTION DECISION ON ENHANCED RADIATION (NEUTRON) WEAPONS,
THAT SUCH TESTING SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE TO SOME DEGREE."
UPI REPORTED THAT SOURCES AT NEVADA TEST SITE SAID AT

LEAST TWO NEUTRON BOMBS HAD BEEN EXPLODED IN UNDERGROUND TESTS AT DESERT SITE DURING LAST SEVERAL YEARS. FEDERAL OFFICIALS DID NOT DENY UPI REPORT, NEWS AGENCY SAID. BARRING ACCIDENTAL "VENTS," SUCH UNDERGROUND TESTS DO NOT RELEASE RADIATION INTO ATMOSPHERE.

2. SENATOR JOHN MELCHER OF MONTANA, IN LETTER TO WASHINGTON POST, ASSERTED THAT "IN MY JUDGMENT, IF U.S. OR OUR NATO ALLIES USED NEUTRON, IT WOULD BE START OF NUCLEAR WARFARE. ONLY PRUDENT POSITION FOR U.S. IS TO USE OUR KNOWLEDGE OF NEUTRON AS PAWN IN OUR STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS WITH RUSSIA TO LEAD TO SANE APPROACH FOR REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WITH PROPER SAFEGUARDS FOR INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT."

3. BALTIMORE SUN PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW WHICH SAID U.S. AND SOVIET UNION "RECOGNIZE THEY RISK UNRAVELING WHOLE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS IF PROGRESS ISN'T MADE SOON ON A NEW SALT PACT TO REPLACE ONE THAT EXPIRED LAST OCTOBER 3. HIGH STAKES HAVE MADE MR. VANCE'S VISIT HERE TURNING POINT FOR U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS." AP SAID VANCE, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR WARNKE, MEETS WITH GROMYKO ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. VANCE, AP REPORTED, SAID HE WOULD EXTEND HIS STAY ANOTHER DAY, ESPECIALLY IF IT MEANT SEEING BREZHNEV. AP QUOTED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS SAYING "WHILE VANCE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 100450

TALKS WILL FOCUS ON SALT, OTHER ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, NUCLEAR TEST BAN TALKS, AND U.S.-SOVIET TROOP REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE."

4. DANIEL SOUTHERLAND OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, IN DISPATCH FROM LONDON, SAID VANCE IS GOING TO MOSCOW "AT TIME WHEN CARTER ADMINISTRATION APPEARS TO BE DEALING FROM WEAKNESS ON SEVERAL FOREIGN POLICY FRONTS." SOUTHERLAND REPORTED THAT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH VANCE SAY THAT NOW IS TIME TO MOVE TOWARD NEW SALT TREATY BASED ON POTENTIAL MERITS OF SUCH TREATY IN TERMS OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL -- AND NOT IN TERMS OF OTHER ASPECTS OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATION. "ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ASSENT THAT WHILE CRITICISM OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOCUSES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON AMERICAN WEAKNESSES, SOVIETS HAVE SOME NOTABLE ONES OF THEIR OWN. ON SOVIET HOME FRONT, THEY SAY, THERE IS CONCERN OVER DECLINING ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY AND RELATIVE WEAKNESS OF SOVIETS' TECHNOLOGICAL BASE VIS-A-VIS THAT OF U.S. SOVIETS ARE SAID TO BE CONCERNED OVER ABILITY OF U.S. TO MAKE FURTHER GAINS IN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY SHOULD THERE BE NO TREATY WHICH

WOULD LIMIT 'MODERNIZATION' OF U.S. AND SOVIET NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

5. WALL STREET JOURNAL EDITORIALY ATTACKED FEBRUARY 21 REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH SALT ONE AGREEMENTS AND FEBRUARY 23 REPORT ON VERIFICATION ASPECTS OF SALT TWO AGREEMENTS. JOURNAL ASSERTED: "WHATEVER LEGALISTIC

ARGUMENTS, PLAIN BLUNT FACT IS THAT UNDER COVER OF SALT ONE, SOVIETS HAVE CONDUCTED MASSIVE ARMS BUILDUP. THIS IS KEY FACT LOST IN NEW DOCUMENTS ON COMPLIANCE AND VERIFICATION. MOST UNSAVORY FEATURE OF STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS IS WHAT THEY DO TO LIKES OF MR. VANCE AND MR. WARNKE. TO SELL AN INEVITABLY DUBIOUS TREATY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 100450

DOMESTICALLY, THEY ARE FORCED TO WHITEWASH SOVIET BEHAVIOR. AT TIMES, INDEED, THEY SEEM WILLING TO ARGUE SOVIET CASE BEFORE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH ANY ARGUMENT THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH WITHOUT BEING THROWN PHYSICALLY FROM ROOM. SO THEY DISMISS NEW RADARS AND DELAY IN DISMANTLING SILOS AS NOT AFFECTING STRATEGIC BALANCE, AND DISMISS SS-19, SS-16 AND HUNTER-KILLER SATELLITES AS NOT VIOLATING AGREEMENTS. IN END, OUR STATE DEPARTMENT SEEMS TO BE TELLING US THAT WE CAN CONDONE SOVIET PROGRAMS THAT LEGALISTICALLY VIOLATE AGREEMENTS SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT AFFECT STRATEGIC BALANCE, AND THAT WE CAN CONDONE SOVIET PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT STRATEGIC BALANCE SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT LEGALISTICALLY VIOLATE AGREEMENTS"

6. FORMER WHITE HOUSE SCIENCE ADVISER GEORGE KISTIAKOWSKI SAID CARTER'S MARCH 1977 SALT PROPOSALS "CONSTITUTED AN IMPORTANT MOVE TOWARD GENUINE ARMS CONTROL AND IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THEY WERE SUMMARILY REJECTED BY SOVIET UNION." WRITING IN BOSTON GLOBE, HE SAID "PROGRESS OR LACK OF IT IN ONGOING SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS WILL INDICATE WHETHER REJECTION WAS DUE TO PARTICULAR MANNER OF CARTER INITIATIVE AND TO UNBALANCED SPECIFICS OF HIS PROPOSALS OR TO WHAT OUR HARDLINERS ASSERT IS AN INTRINSICALLY HARDLINE POSITION OF SOVIET UNION. ONE MUST HOPE THAT IT IS FORMER, THAT SALT TWO AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED, AND WILL BE STARTING POINT FOR FURTHER ARMS CURBS." CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE100450
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPMPOPE:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780168-0466
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780438/aaaabgjj.tel
Line Count: 163
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c54501ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2912448
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APRIL 19 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PARM, SOPN, US
To: GENEVA USSALTTWO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c54501ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014